

May 2015

IN THIS EDITION



Live music, food trucks
come to downtown June 7.
See page 3.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

May 13: Town Council
special budget meeting
(8 a.m.)

May 14: Town Council
special budget meeting
(TENTATIVE, 8 a.m.)

May 19: Town Council
regular meeting (7 p.m.)

May 25: TOWN HALL
CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL
DAY

May 26: Town Council
work session (6 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council
Chambers in building B at
Town Hall, 900 Seventh
Ave. Town Council regular
meetings are recorded and
broadcast (not live) on
GTV 11 (Time Warner 11,
AT&T U-verse 99).



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GARNER UPDATE

Vol. 77, No. 83



The above illustration shows the design concept for the indoor recreation center (back entrance) to be built at the corner of Main and Montague streets. A proposed 1.75-cent tax increase contained in the recommended FY 2015-16 budget would help pay the debt service on the bonds that will finance the indoor recreation center and a host of other projects associated with the bond program approved by Garner voters in a March 2013 referendum.

Recommended FY 2015-16 Budget Unveiled to Council

Town Manager Hardin Watkins presented the Town of Garner's recommended operating budget for fiscal year 2015-16 at the May 4 Town Council meeting. The proposed \$28.3 million budget includes a planned 1.75-cent property-tax increase to help pay for the ongoing bond program overwhelmingly approved by Garner voters in March 2013.

The tax increase is projected to raise \$539,430 in additional revenue that will be dedicated solely to servicing bond-related debt expenses in FY 2015-16. If approved, the tax-rate hike would boost the Town's total property tax rate to 51.75 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The proposed tax increase for next fiscal year, together with the current fiscal year's increase of one cent, completes the increases needed for the 2013 bond program. The combined 2.75-cent increase will be dedicated to bond program debt service throughout the life of the debt service (approximately the next 20-25 years) and also be used to build a capital reserve fund to offset other future capital projects.

The Town's revenue savings plan, first implemented in the current fiscal year, dedicates a portion of new revenue growth to a capital reserve and helps lessen the impact of the

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Previously
recorded Town
Council meetings
can be watched
on demand at
garnernc.gov.



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's award-winning "Great People in Garner" on demand at youtube.com/townofgarner.

It's budget season here at Town Hall. That means our town manager has submitted a recommended operating budget to the Town Council for the new fiscal year starting July 1.



The approved budget generally looks a lot like what staff recommends,

Between now and then, the Town Council will deliberate over the proposed budget and, in the end, approve a balanced budget before the new fiscal year begins.

with modifications here and there. Those modifications, however, can be significant in some instances.

Your Town Council meets **Wednesday, May 13** starting at 8 a.m. in a budget session and, if necessary, the next morning starting at the same time. Please take a look at the recommended budget, which is available online at garnernc.gov/Publications/Default.aspx. You'll find the current and previous years' budgets and other Town financial documents there as well.

I also want to take the opportunity

to encourage you to come out for the Memorial Day observance at 1:30 p.m. on **Monday, May 25** at Lake Benson Park, near the Garner Veterans Memorial. And I want to recommend the Salute to the Troops, a free patriotic event being held **Sunday, May 17** at 6 p.m. at Aversboro Road Baptist Church (1600 Aversboro Road). The event will feature the 82nd Airborne Choral Group and a Garner community choir. It's sure to be an inspiring event.

Ronnie S. Williams

Ronnie S. Williams

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM



It's Gonna Be Doggone Nice!

The Town's Public Works Department is putting the final touches on the new dog park at Garner Recreational Park on Garner Road. The dog park is slated for a mid-June grand opening. A second dog park will be built in South Garner; details are still being worked out. The amenities are being funded by Parks and Recreational Bonds approved by Garner voters in 2013. Visit garnerbonds.com for more information on the Town's bond program.

Budget

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bond program on the Town's budget. The plan helps keep the tax-rate increase associated with the bond program to a total of just 2.75 cents. It is estimated that a total of \$337,046 will be put toward the plan in FY 2015-16, plus \$46,313 from the current year, for a total of \$383,359 going toward the plan.

The Town Council is scheduled to hold a special budget session on **Wednesday, May 13** starting at 8 a.m. in the Council Chambers at Town Hall, located at 900 Seventh Ave. If necessary, there will be a second session the following morning starting at 8 a.m. The recommended budget and other recent years' budgets can be read online at garnernc.gov/Publications/Default.aspx. Hard copies of the proposed FY 2015-16 budget are available at Town Hall and next door at the Wake County Southeast Regional Library. The Town Council must approve a balanced budget before July 1.



Live Music and Food Trucks on June 7

The Garner Revitalization Association's Downtown Sounds concert series on the back lawn of Garner Performing Arts Center (125 Avery St.) has been transformed into a one-day music festival with local food trucks and local craft beer. The festival will be held on **Sunday, June 7** from noon to 6 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

Food trucks will include Ty's All Natural, The Humble Pig, Stuff, King's Authentic Philly Cheesesteaks, CJ's Street Food, D'Bur-



ritos, Dusty Donuts and Jam Ice Cream. (Twitter is a great way to follow these trucks and to get

updates on this event!)

The music lineup is as follows:

12:00 – 1:30: Nick Driver (singer/songwriter) – nickdrivermusic.com

2:00 – 3:30: Jonathan Byrd and the Pickup Cowboy Band (Americana) – jonathanbyrd.com

4:00 – 6:00: Spare Change – sparechangemusic.net

For updates and more information on GRA, please visit downtowngarner.com.



You can follow downtown Garner on Twitter (@Downtown-Garner).

Public Invited to Annual Memorial Day Event

Garner will hold its annual Memorial Day observance on **Monday, May 25** at 1:30 p.m. at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road) near the Garner Veterans Memorial. Mayor Ronnie Williams is keynote speaker. Miss North Carolina 2012 Arlie Honeycutt will sing the National Anthem. The Garner Magnet High School Army JROTC Color Guard will present and retire the colors.

Transit Meeting in Garner May 13

Wake Transit is inviting citizens to participate in a public meeting on transit strategies for Wake County at the Garner Senior Center (205 E. Garner Road) on **Wednesday, May 13** at 6 p.m. Four transit plan options will be unveiled for public input and discussion.

Attendees will engage in planning activities and have

an opportunity to ask questions.

The plan options will touch on matters that will have great impact on Garner in the coming years. **Town leaders encourage the community to participate in this event if possible.** For more information, including opportunities to attend meetings in other communities, visit waketransit.com.



Town Seeking Volunteers, Vendors for July 3

The Town is looking for businesses, community organizations and individuals that would like to get involved with Garner's annual Independence Day Celebration on July 3. With crowds reaching into the thousands, this event provides a wonderful opportunity to reach the citizens of Garner and surrounding area. Here are ways you can get involved:

Food Vendors

Nonprofit organizations that wish to be food vendors for our annual Independence Day Celebration can now apply for consideration. Appli-

cations are due by **Friday, May 29** and can be found at garnernc.gov/Forms/Parks and Recreation/July 3 Nonprofit Food Vendor Application.pdf.

Crafts and Games

Community organizations or businesses that would like to provide Independence Day-themed crafts and games can also apply for consideration. Please note that, other than food, no solicitation is allowed at the event, so these items must be provided as community outreach, and activities requiring a fee will not be considered. Applications are

due by **Friday, May 15** and can be found at garnernc.gov/Forms/Parks and Recreation/July 3 Crafts Application.pdf.

Volunteers

Business, church and community groups are encouraged to take part in this annual event. Help is needed with setup and breakdown, assisting guests with shuttle services, information booths and hospitality. Groups or individuals wanting to volunteer should contact Jill McAllister at jmcallister@garnernc.gov.



Garner PD Welcomes Two New Officers

The Garner Police Department on May 4 welcomed its two newest officers, Hunter Miller and Patrick McGuire.

Officer Miller attended Fuquay-Varina High School, graduating in 2011. He is currently a criminal justice student at Wake Tech Community College. Miller began his career with Garner Police as a services officer in December 2014. He also graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Training program at Wake Technical Community College in December. Miller currently resides in Willow Springs. He enjoys outdoor activities such as duck hunting and wakeboarding.

Officer McGuire attended West Johnston High School, graduating in 2012. In February of this year, McGuire also began his law enforcement career as a services officer with Garner Police. He graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement



Officer Patrick McGuire (left) poses with Deputy Chief Eric Copeland (center) and fellow new Officer Hunter Miller after their swearing-in ceremony May 4.

Training program at Johnston Community College in December. McGuire currently resides in Ang-

ier. He enjoys playing basketball, fishing and riding dirt bikes during his free time.

Town Earns Honors for Pair of Financial Reports

For the first time ever, the Town of Garner has received the Government Finance Officers Association's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The report was for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014.

The Town completed a PAFR based on GFOA guidelines for the first time last year. Jamie Ludovic, formerly the Town's budget and special projects manager, and Rick Mercier, the Town's communications manager, were primarily responsible for the report.

The Town also has been honored again by the GFOA for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

(CAFR), which also covered the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. It is the 25th consecutive year that the Finance Department has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the CAFR. The certificate is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The award-winning reports can be read online at garnernc.gov/Publications/Default.aspx.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

Town Spotlights Development Information

A new information product created by the Town of Garner highlights information of interest to the development community and other stakeholders. The inaugural edition of the Development Services Update—available online at garnernc.gov/Departments/Planning/Default.aspx—focuses on changes to the Town's water/sewer policy and townhome lot widths, and on staffing changes and additions made the past several months to grow and strengthen departments in the Town's Development Services unit.

To sign up to have the quarterly newsletter emailed to you, please contact Assistant Town Manager-Development Services John Hodges at jhodges@garnernc.gov.



You can follow
Garner PD
on Twitter
(@GarnerPolice).